

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether ten exchanges are connected with Sahibganj Main Exchange having about 1700 connections and 8+8 STD channel facility only;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the number of STD channel facility from 8+8 to 30+30.

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which the facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. Eight Exchanges are working on over head carrier system and two exchanges on over head lines.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Bankudih, Barharwa, Bhagaiya, Gangati Taljhari, Tinpuhar, Udhwa, Barahait on UHF System.

Rajmahal, Murza Chowki on Optical Fibre Systems to be commissioned progressively during 1997-98 and 1998-99.

(d) In view of reply to (c) above, question does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) and (h). 15+15 Circuits by March, 1997
30+30 Circuits by March, 1999.

New Railway Zones

953. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala for setting up new proposed South-West Railway Zone Headquarter in Kerala.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the development of Railway in Kerala;

(d) whether office of the Chief Engineer (construction) has been sanctioned for Kerala in 1991;

(e) if so, whether such office has started functioning; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A few representations have been received regarding setting up of Zonal headquarters of South-West zone in Kerala.

(c) The following works have been taken up for development of Railway in Kerala :

(i) Doubling of Kayankulam-Quilon has been completed.

(ii) Doubling of Quilon-Trivandrum is being progressed.

(iii) Doubling of Shoranpur-Mangalore has been taken up

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Hindi Consultative Committee

954. SHRI JAGADAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindi Salahkar Samiti has been constituted in the Ministry;

(b) if so, the number of sittings held so far;

(c) the number of Official Language Implementation Committees at various level in the Ministry and whether their sittings are held regularly.

(d) whether Members and Chairman of these Committees, who are responsible to encourage maximum use of Hindi are doing their own work in official language.

(e) the number of modern equipments converted into bi-lingual and the persons, places where this equipment, having Devnagari script would be used as all the records are kept in English.

(f) the reasons for non-completion of the programme in 23-24 years which can be completed in one year, and

(g) whether it is likely to be completed this year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After having reconstituted the Committee on 9th March, 1995, its meeting was held on 15.11.1995.

(c) Official Language Implementation Committees have been constructed in the Ministry as well as in most of the Offices under it and efforts are made to convene their meetings in each quarter.

(d) Yes, Sir. Do their work in Hindi according to their convenience.

(e) Most of the modern equipment being used in the Ministry as well as various offices/undertakings etc. under its control have bilingual facility and instructions have been given to do maximum work in Hindi on them.

(f) and (g). Prescribed targets for some of the items in the Annual Programme have been achieved fully.

and constant efforts are being made to achieve the targets for the remaining items in accordance with the Official Language Policy of the Government which is based on persuasion and incentives.

Fake Railway Passes

955. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a racket is running systematically in Maharashtra and issuing fake railway passes for the last so many years;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, only three cases of use of fake railway passes had come to notice of railways in past many years and as outsiders were involved the cases were referred to the Police. In one case, investigation has been completed and charge sheet filed in the Court of Law. Investigations are in progress in the other two cases by the Police.

Regular preventive checks are conducted to detect such cases.

[English]

E.D. Employees

956. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA
SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAJ :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of E D Employees in the Post-Offices in Delhi Circle;

(b) whether recruitment of such employees is made through employment exchange;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of E D employees appointed without their names being forwarded by the Employment Exchange;

(e) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some Assistant Superintendents have committed irregularities in such appointments;

(f) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(h) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of ED Employees in Delhi Circle is 549.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. However, incase the Employment Exchange fails to sponsor the requisite minimum number of candidates within the date stipulated in the notification, applications are invited through open advertisement.

(d) The number of ED Agents appointed without sponsorship by the Employment Exchange in Delhi Circle is 3. Two were appointed from the local market as per rules and one was appointed before the condition of sponsorship from the Employment Exchange was introduced.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) to (h). The question does not arise.

Environmental Damages Caused by Eco-Tourism

957. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the growing Eco-Tourism in the country is causing environmental damages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have proposals to monitor the over-growing eco-tourism being promoted by the various State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). Although there has been a few instances of environmental degradation in the past, the concept of eco-tourism is aimed at ensuring long-term sustainability of tourist centres by following eco-friendly practices and creating awareness.

(c) and (d). The Central Government has constituted the Himalayan Tourism Advisory Board (HIMTAB) which has evolved guidelines for developing eco-tourism.

Railway Freight Charges evaded by Gang Operating in Delhi

958. SHRI G M KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a gang is operating in and around Delhi and evading freight apart from sales tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that such evaders have been detected by the railway and sales tax authorities recently;

(d) if so, the amounts recovered from them and number of persons arrested so far involved in this modus operandi; and